WOW, WHAT DO YOU CALL *THAT?*
FULL-FORM REPULSOR RAY.
WELL, LOOK AT YOU, MISTER FANCY-WITH-THE-NEW-POWERS.
SYSTEM CHECK COMPLETE. ALL SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL.

ANYONE KNOW WHO THE $%^# THESE THINGS ARE AND WHY THEY ARE TRASHING THE FINEST SHOPPING DISTRICT IN AMERICA?!
ANYONE RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM?
I'M GETTING KIND OF A MOLE MAN VIBE.
I COULD CARE LESS!
I'M JUST LOOKING FOR SOME SORT OF--
IT'S A WAR. THEY ATTACKED, WE DESTROY THEM. ASK QUESTIONS LATER!
OKAY, THEN.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
TANG
SORRY.
I THOUGHT THE MOLE MAN QUIT BEING ALL MOLEY?
WELL, ONCE A MOLE MAN...
"LET'S START WITH WHO WERE THE BEST CLASSIC AVENGERS OF ALL TIME..."

LET'S GRAB THE SENTRY.
NO.
WHAT?
WE NEED HIM.
HE WAS COMPLETELY USELESS DURING THE WAR AND HE'S A BASKET CASE.
HE'S GOT TROUBLES.
HE'S A BASKET CASE.
SAYS MISS PERFECT.
WELL, WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER SCARLET WITCH SITUATION. WE KEEP HIM CLOSE AND WE HELP HIM.
WE HAD THE SCARLET WITCH PRETTY CLOSE BY.
NOW WE KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR.
BOB'S LIKE-- I CALL HIM THE BULLET. YOU POINT HIM AT SOMETHING AND FIRE.
AND WITH HIS WATCHTOWER RIGHT ON TOP OF OUR HEADQUARTERS...
ALL THE HEROES IN THE WORLD AND YOU WANT THE GUY WHO'S THE MOST WOBBLY?
YOU HAVE TO THINK OF HIM AS A HERO IN TRAINING, A YOUNG AVENGER.
HE NEEDS JUST A LITTLE GUIDANCE AND TRAINING BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY, AS ONLY WE CAN GIVE.
THAT'S THE MISTAKE EVERYONE IS MAKING WITH HIM.
EVERYONE TREATS HIM LIKE A WORLD-CLASS HERO BECAUSE HE HAS THE POWER. BUT HE'S NOT THERE YET.
BUT I DON'T WANT HIM.
I DO.
SO REALLY YOU'RE LEADING THE TEAM?
NO, YOU ARE.
I'M PICKING THE TEAM. WITH YOU.
$%@# YOU.
YOU'LL SEE I'M RIGHT.
I PROMISE I'M RIGHT.
BOB, IN THE RIGHT SITUATION, WILL GROW TO BE A THOR. HE'S THIS CLOSE TO BEING ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GREATS AND FRANKLY I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN HE DOES IT.
FABOOM
ANYONE A LITTLE CREEPED OUT THAT THEY DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE OR ANYTHING?
KLONK
RRR!!
STOP SQUIRMING, I CAN'T GET A GOOD SHOT!
RRIIPPPPPP
YOU'RE WELCOME.
YEAH, THANKS.
UH, YUM.
FOCUS ON THE MONSTERS, YOU UNBELIEVABLE TRAMP.

"...I BETTER SEE SOME RAZZLE-DAZZLE."

IT'S HAILING NOW?!!
I TOLD YOU THE WORLD'S WEATHER--
YEAH, NO $%##.
I'VE GOT TO GO FULL-SIZE.
IT'S TOO MUCH.
ARES, SENTRY, CLEAR A PATH!
I'M GOING TO THROW UP FROM THE SMELL, I SWEAR TO GOD.
OH, YOO-HOO, MOLE MAN!!
SIMON!
OH MY GOD!

WERGW-3453653GF8%8&$2
CCCCCHANGED TO STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION--
AAGGHHHHH!!!
AAGGHHHHH!!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM??!!
NOTHING!
TONY, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
STOP IT!!! OR I'LL BREAK YOU IN--
IT'S NOT ME. I'M NOT--
ZWF--
LOADING...
LOADING...

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THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

Hi! Brian Bendis here once again on our AVENGERS news page, where you'll get the exclusive insider scoop on everything going on at MARVEL and in the ever-growing world of Avengers.

It's been a while since we had one of these pages up and going—and for that I'm sorry. But now, with MIGHTY AVENGERS, NEW AVENGERS, CIVIL WAR: THE CONFESSION and CIVIL WAR: THE INITIATIVE all on track, on time, done, drawn, and ready to go, we're back with a vengeance!

These books are among the most gorgeous I have ever had my name on and I have been out thumping hard for each and every one. So, here you'll find just one of the MANY interviews I've been giving on all the excitement coming post-CIVIL WAR. Enjoy!

THE MARSHALL PLAN FOR THE MARVEL U: BENDIS TALKS CIVIL WAR: THE INITIATIVE

by Dave Richards, Staff Writer, CBR

CIVIL WAR has torn apart the old order of the Marvel Universe and come February, the war will end and the rebuilding begins. One of the architects of the post-CIVIL WAR Marshall Plan for the Marvel Universe is writer Brian Michael Bendis. With co-writer Warren Ellis, Bendis is penning CIVIL WAR: THE INITIATIVE, a one-shot special hitting stores in February that sets the stage for a new Marvel era. Bendis also continues to pen the monthly adventures of a team that CIVIL WAR disassembled, the NEW AVENGERS. CBR News spoke with him about both books.

THE INITIATIVE was born when the post-CIVIL WAR plans for the Marvel Universe were being formulated. "I was heavily involved," Bendis told CBR News. "My books NEW AVENGERS and MIGHTY AVENGERS comprise many of the characters involved in CIVIL WAR, one way or another, who survive. I was there for OMEGA FLIGHT because me and Mike Oeming do Powers together, so we were talking about OMEGA FLIGHT a lot. Also, I had just read Warren Ellis' first few THUNDERBOLTS issues and loved them. I'm a big Warren Ellis fan.

"So, someone, it might have been Tom Brevoort, told me that because I prequeled CIVIL WAR with NEW AVENGERS: ILLUMINATI we really have an opportunity here to do a genuine all-new special that bookends CIVIL WAR and sets everybody up," Bendis continued. "It would serve as sort of a, 'here is where we are' and also it's a nice primer for those interested in the new series, for those who want to get a feel for them, or those who can't wait and want to see how they all connect. This is the perfect special to do it."

Bendis was happy to take the assignment of writing THE INITIATIVE but he had one caveat. "I said, 'I don't want to write Warren's THUNDERBOLTS,"' he stated. "Mike was cool with the little idea I had for OMEGA FLIGHT and we kind of worked on it together and he let me go with it, but Warren's THUNDERBOLTS is really Warren's book. I was like, 'Let Warren write his, but I'll do the rest.'"

Once the writers were selected for THE INITIATIVE an artist was needed to depict the dawning of a new era in the Marvel Universe. "I have been working with Marc Silvestri on this unannounced project for awhile," Bendis explained. "They were like, 'Boy, he would be the perfect guy for this because it's so big.' It's got these big images and it's all about these iconic new ideas. He said yes, so that was really exciting. I really want this to be special. I thought that Warren and Mark definitely made it that. Even if I completely screwed it up, it would be special."

Bendis was also able to give some details about the other groups that play large roles in THE INITIATIVE. "I think everyone has a good sense of what the THUNDERBOLTS is now that you've read about them in CIVIL WAR. As crazy as you think the book might be, it's crazier," Bendis stated. "But OMEGA FLIGHT, this is very unique because it expresses a new idea for the Canadian super team. It really is a new group of characters with new interactions. Mike came up with some really good things. So, what you get here is this genuine prelude chapter to this team. It shows how a couple of them are selected and what they're all doing together."

THE INITIATIVE will feature some very different teams, but all of the action in the book is tied together. "It's all wrapped around the idea of The Initiative. They're all chapters of this much bigger idea, which is The Initiative," Bendis said. "It's so big that many of the ideas can't even fit into this book. But these are some of the headline stories of THE INITIATIVE and they're all being expressed in these first chapters in this special."

The action and the big ideas of The Initiative won't focus solely on teams. "Spider-Woman and Ms. Marvel both have an important chapter to their solo stories and their places in the teams that they are going to be in," Bendis explained.

Since CIVIL WAR: THE INITIATIVE features a large cast of characters dealing with a new status quo, it might remind some readers of the HOUSE OF M: DAY AFTER special, which dealt with the fallout from that mini-series. "THE INITIATIVE is similar in that it's kind of the day after, but it's completely different in technique, what the characters are up to and what's going on," Bendis said. "The day after HOUSE OF M was literally like the day after a horror movie. Something horrible had happened to a species. That's what the day after was in that book. Here, it's like the day after a war. There are winners and losers; some people are triumphant and some are not and there is rebuilding. So, there's very different techniques being used and the theme and tone are different.

"What you also get in the book is what we tried to provide in NEW AVENGERS, which is some new interactions with some old friends," Bendis continued. "You put Spider-Man on the team and all of a sudden everyone is kind of reacting differently. You're going to get a lot more of that here; a lot of romance, a lot of new hook-ups, a lot of post-War cuddling and all that starts here."

In addition to providing new interactions, many of the scenes in THE INITIATIVE will address some of the leftover burning questions from CIVIL WAR. "You're going to read CIVIL WAR and see what happens there. Then right away you're going to go 'what happened to them?'" Bendis said. "Almost every page of THE INITIATIVE hopefully answers some kind of question like that."

One question that won't be addressed in-depth in THE INITIATIVE is "what does the new post-Civil War era mean for the villains of the Marvel U?" "That's forthcoming," Bendis explained. "I'm happy to say that you do get a very rare appearance by the Grey Gargoyle. But what will be dealt with all year is, other than the ones we have seen, there are about 600 major Marvel villains that we haven't heard a peep from all summer long. We're going to hear from all of them for the whole of next year. Now that we know who the heroes are, we will set up for the villains."

And there you have it: an exciting AVENGERS filled year at The House of Ideas!

For those out and about this summer, I am the guest of honor at Wizard World: Philly, which is actually a con I have never been to. So come out and say "Hello!"

And if you find yourself with a desire to hang out with other readers of a similar mindset, stop on by Jinxworld.com, my web site, where you can find links to more interviews like this and a myriad of creator-run forums. If you have any comments or questions, shoot them along to *mheroes@marvel.com*.

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you soon!
-Bendis!